

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Michael L. Rishel

Serial No.: 09/802,447

Filed: March 9, 2001

Docket No.: 10005084-1

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING WEB BROWSER TRAIL MARKERS

of microwave oven 200. (Column 4, lines 17-20). A user can subsequently select the saved cooking data, and the microwave oven 200 will execute a cooking sequence in accordance with the data. (Column 6, lines 5-10). The external device 300, rather than the microwave 200 or the microcomputer 100, includes the browser. (Column 5, lines 1-7). The bookmark button 131 and the replacing button 134, cited by the Examiner as the first and second buttons, are part of the microwave oven 200, rather than part of the external device (Figures 2 & 3; column 3, lines 51-55; column 4, lines 12-16). As such, the buttons 131 and 134 are not part of the browser as claimed in independent claim 1.

In further contrast, activation of the buttons 131 and 134 only causes the microwave oven to store or replace cooking data to or from memory 150. Accordingly, activation of buttons 131 or button 134 does not create a response in the browser, which is part of external device 300. As a result, the browser does not store data in response to activation of the first button or access a web page in response to activation of the second button, as claimed in independent claim 1.

Moreover, memory 150 is part of microwave oven 200 and merely saves the cooking data. Memory 150 does not store a reference back to the web page from which the cooking data was originally downloaded. The cooking data stored in memory 150 does not provide a path or allow access to the original web page. Therefore, the memory is not operable to store a single reference to a web page in which the browser can access a web page referenced by the reference stored in the memory upon activation of the second button, as claimed in independent claim 1.

For at least the above-described reasons, the Applicant believes that the Ha reference fails to disclose the limitations of independent claim 1. Allowance of independent claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 depends from independent claim 1, which as indicated above, Applicant believes to be in allowable form. Accordingly, Applicant believes dependent claim 4 in combination with independent claim 1 to be allowable.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ha in view of secondary reference U.S. Patent No. 6,049,812 to Bertram et al. ("Bertram").

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Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the primary reference Ha reference as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of secondary reference U.S. Patent No. 6,449,765 issued to Ballard ("Ballard"). Each of claims 2, 3, and 5 depend from independent claim 1. Each of these rejections is primarily based upon the Ha reference for the reasons stated in rejecting claims 1 and 4, which as indicated above, Applicant believes to be in allowable form. For the same reasons as stated above in reference to claim 1, Applicant believes dependent claims 2, 3, and 5 in combination with independent claim 1 to be allowable over Ha, either alone or in further view of Bertram and Ballard.

Claims 6, 7 and 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the primary reference Ha in view of the secondary reference Ballard. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the primary reference Ha and Ballard, and further in view of the secondary reference Bertram.

Independent claim 6 is directed to a method for providing web browser trail markers including providing a memory location operable to store a reference to electronic content, providing a user interface operably coupled to the memory location, and displaying a first electronic content in the user interface. The user interface includes a first button and a second button and is operable to display electronic content. The first electronic content is located at a first reference. The method of claim 6 further includes storing the first reference in the memory location in response to activation of the first button, displaying a second electronic content, which is located at a second reference, in the user interface, and displaying the first electronic content reference by the first reference stored in the memory location in response to activation of the second button. Independent claim 13 recites a computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer instructions for executing a similar method. None of the cited references either alone or in combination teach or otherwise suggest the invention of independent claims 6 and 13 and the claims depending therefrom.

In rejecting independent claims 6 and 13 and each of the dependent claims, the Examiner states that the Ha reference "discloses the essential elements of the claimed invention." For the same reasons stated in reference to independent claim 1, Applicant again submits that Ha does not disclose the essential elements of the claimed invention. In particular, Ha discloses the use of buttons 131 and 134 to store cooking data or access previously stored cooking data. In contrast, the method of claim 6 stores a first reference in

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the memory location in response to activation of the first button, where the first electronic content is located at the first reference. The first electronic content itself is not stored in the memory location in response to activation of the first button, only the first reference to the electronic content. Further, the Ha reference teaches away from storing a reference to the electronic content (i.e., the cooking data) upon activation of a first button since in Ha the cooking data itself is stored directly to memory. As such, one skilled in the art could not take the teachings of Ha, either alone or in combination with the teachings of Ballard and/or Bertram and arrive at the invention of independent claim 6 or independent claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the above rejection of independent claim 6 and independent claim 13 be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 7-12 and 14-16 further define inventive features of Applicant's invention of independent claim 6 and independent claim 13, which as indicated above, Applicant believes to be in allowable form. In addition to the same reasons as stated in reference to independent claim 6 and 13 above, Applicant believes these dependent claims in combination with corresponding independent claim 6 or 13 to be allowable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant believes independent claims 1, 6, and 13 and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to James R. McDaniel at Telephone No. (208) 396-4095, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on this 25 day of April, 2003.

By Steven E. Dicke
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